

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 09613 121011Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CCO-00 OTPE-00 EB-08 FCC-01 OC-06 COME-00

BIB-01 /072 W

-----116694 132022Z /70

R 120810Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6204

INFO RUMJPG/USLO PEKING 8522

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, ETRD, ESTC, CH, US

SUBJ: POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE REVEALS NEW GOALS

SUMMARY: CHINA IS PLANNING TO LAUNCH A MAJOR PROGRAM TO UPGRADE AND EXPAND ITS POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. A SPECIAL EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON IMPROVING INTRA-PROVINCIAL COMMUNICATIONS, MODERNIZING TELEPHONE SWITCHING FACILITIES, INCREASED LINE CAPACITY, AND THE BROADSCALE INTRODUCTION OF A FACSIMILE TELEGRAPH SERVICE. THE PROGRAM APPEARS TO BE THE CONTINUATION OF A PROJECT THAT WAS INITIALLY LAUNCHED IN 1969, BUT WHICH SUFFERED AFTER 1974 FROM POLITICAL DISRUPTIONS AND THE GENERAL DOWNTURN IN THE ECONOMY. CHINA PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO RELY ON WESTERN ASSISTANCE, SINCE HER DOMESTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRODUCTION CAPABILITY IS NOT ADVANCED ENOUGH TO MEET THE GOALS OF THE NEW PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

1. A PROGRAM TO SYSTEMATICALLY DEVELOP TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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PAGE 02 HONG K 09613 121011Z

IN THE PRC WAS REVEALED AT A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS WHICH ENDED IN PEKING ON JULY 30. ACCORDING TO A CONFERENCE REPORT BY POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTER CHUNG FU-HSIANG, THE 1980 GOAL IS A MODERN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE IN EACH OF CHINA'S MORE THAN 2000 COUNTIES. BY 1985, CHUNG STATED, ALL TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT IN THE COUNTRY WILL BE COMPLETELY

AUTOMATED WITH MODERN ELECTRO-MECHANICAL DEVICES.
WITHIN THE CENTURY, HE ADDED, CHINA'S POST AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR MUST CATCH UP WITH AND OUTSTRIP
THE WORLD'S ADVANCE LEVEL.

2. THE PROGRAM OUTLINED AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
APPEARS TO BE A CONTINUATION OF A PROJECT WHICH WAS
INITIALLY LAUNCHED IN 1969. DURING THE PERIOD 1969
TO 1974, CHINA CARRIED OUT A MAJOR PROGRAM TO CONSTRUCT
A NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF WIDE-BAND CARRIER TELECOMMUNICA-
TIONS TRUNK LINES CONSISTING OF BOTH MICROWAVE RADIO
RELAY AND BURIED CABLE. FOLLOW-ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE
SYSTEM-- SUCH AS THE INTRODUCTION OF AUTOMATIC SWITCHING
EQUIPMENT, CONSTRUCTION OF FEEDER LINES, AND THE
GENERAL UPGRADING OF PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS--
SUFFERED AFTER 1974 FROM POLITICAL DISRUPTIONS AND THE GENERAL
DOWNTURN IN THE ECONOMY.

3. ACCORDING TO AN EDITORIAL IN PEOPLE'S DAILY,
AUGUST 7, 1977, THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WILL BE
BOTH NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL IN SCOPE. THE ARTICLE
URGED THAT IN CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT THERE MUST BE
"NO WAITING, NO RELIANCE ON OTHERS, AND NO ASKING
FOR AID FROM ABOVE". THIS DOES NOT SUGGEST THERE
WOULD BE NO REQUIREMENT FOR FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY. PRIOR
TO 1975, WHEN THE PROJECT CAME TO A HALT. THE PRC
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PAGE 03 HONG K 09613 121011Z

MADE NUMEROUS INQUIRIES ABROAD FOR LARGE CAPACITY
ELECTRO-MECHANICAL AND ELECTRONIC SWITCHING SYSTEMS
AND TECHNOLOGY, WESTERN FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION EQUIPMENT,
AND HIGH-CAPACITY MULTIPLEXING DEVICES TO INCREASE
TELEPHONE CHANNEL CAPACITY. THERE IS LITTLE INDICATION
THAT CHINA'S DOMESTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRODUCTION
CAPABILITY HAS IMPROVED SUFFICIENTLY OVER THE PAST
FEW YEARS TO SATISFY THESE NEEDS WITHOUT WESTERN
ASSISTANCE.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), TELEGRAPH SYSTEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977HONGK09613
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770293-0116
Format: TEL
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770868/aaaacfld.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1620578
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE REVEALS NEW GOALS SUMMARY: CHINA IS PLANNING TO LAUNCH A MAJOR PROGRAM TO UPGRADE AND EXPAND ITS POST AND TEL ECOMMUNICATIONS
TAGS: TGEN, ETRD, ESTC, CH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1b57755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009